



**For Immediate Release**  
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**STATE HONORS 88 MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITIES  
WITH ANNUAL TREE CITY USA AWARDS**  
*3 Utility Companies Presented with Tree Line USA Awards*

HAVERHILL—The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) today presented 88 Massachusetts communities with the **2007 Tree City USA Award** in a ceremony at the Winnekenni Castle. DCR Acting Commissioner Priscilla Geigis presented the awards, sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in recognition of communities of any size that are making a commitment to community and urban forestry. Also, for the first time, 22 communities were presented with the **Massachusetts Sustainable Community Forestry Award** for achieving a particularly high standard of community forest management.

“Our community and urban forests improve the health, well-being and quality of life of our communities. The municipal and corporate partners we are honoring today have shown their dedication to maintaining these precious natural resources for the benefit of all,” said DCR Acting Commissioner Priscilla Geigis. “It is due to their dedication and commitment to urban forestry that Massachusetts has the largest number of Tree City USA communities in all of New England and New York.”

Tree City USA awards recognize communities which meet four standards, including having a tree board or tree department, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, enforcing laws that protect public trees, and holding an Arbor Day celebration. Tree Line USA awards recognize public and private utilities across the nation that demonstrate practices that protect and enhance urban forests.

Twentieth Year Tree City USA Benchmark Awards were presented to **Amherst, Danvers and Hanscom Air Force Base**. Other Benchmark Awards were presented to **Cambridge and Gloucester** (15 years); **Barnstable, Bridgewater, Falmouth, Lowell, Marion and Westover Air Reserve Base** (10 years); and, **Arlington, Greenfield, Lawrence and Salem** (5 years). Four first-time Tree City USA communities were also honored: **Ludlow, Milton, Plympton and Winthrop**.

Other 2007 Tree City USA Award winners (with the number years they have participated in the program in parentheses) include:

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Timothy P. Murray  
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Ian A. Bowles, Secretary  
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Priscilla E. Geigis, Acting Commissioner  
Department of Conservation & Recreation

Amesbury (11), Andover (8), Bedford (7), Belmont (22), Beverly (6), Billerica (3), Boston (11), Boxford (2), Brockton (9), Brookline (19), Chelsea (3), Chicopee (14), Dalton (6), Duxbury (16), Easton (19), Everett (6), Fall River (2), Framingham (16), Grafton (7), Groton (11), Haverhill (11), Hingham (19), Holyoke (6), Lanesborough (2), Leominster (9), Lexington (18), Longmeadow (6), Lynn (17), Manchester-by-the-Sea (19), Marblehead (8), Marshfield (12), Medford (9), Melrose (9), Nantucket (7), Needham (12), New Bedford (7), Newburyport (11), Newton (18), North Adams (11), Northampton (2), Orleans (9), Peabody (11), Petersham (3), Pittsfield (2), Plymouth (18), Quincy (11), Reading (22), Sandwich (6), Saugus (8), Scituate (9), Sherborn (7), Somerville (12), Southampton (2), Springfield (21), Stoneham (7), Sturbridge (18), Sutton (7), Swampscott (16), Wakefield (6), Waltham (11), Watertown (16), Wellesley (24), West Bridgewater (13), West Springfield (19), Westfield (3), Weston (4), Weymouth (7), Woburn (2) and Worcester (21).

Three Massachusetts utility companies, NSTAR, Chicopee Electric Light and National Grid, received **2007 Tree Line USA Awards** for meeting standards in quality tree care, ongoing worker training, and tree planting and education programs. In addition, National Grid sponsored the luncheon event.

The 22 communities honored with the new **Massachusetts Sustainable Community Forestry Award** met stringent criteria, including the adoption of a sound forest management plan, professional staffing, strong inter-agency coordination, current status as a Tree City USA, and more. These communities included **Bedford, Beverly, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Duxbury, Fall River, Groton, Haverhill, Lowell, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Marion, Melrose, Newton, Orleans, Scituate, Sherborn, Springfield, Sutton, Wellesley and Worcester.**

The Tree City USA and Tree Line USA awards programs are administered by DCR's Urban and Community Forestry Program.

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